contained in the report of the Committee on Automobile Tyres & Tubes, the tyre manufacturers are already putting a label indicating maximum retail price on tyres. At the instance of the Government, they have further agreed to put permanent label on tyres indicating maximum retail price.

(b) The tyre manufacturers had increased the Net Dealers Prices of tyres by around 7 per cent in July, 1987.

(c) Government would consider import of tyres if the need arises.

(d) Since 1984, *ad valorem* rates of excise duties were replaced by specific rates of duty for various sizes of tyres The incidence of excise duty on truck and bus tyres is around 38 per cent. The Automobile Tyre Manufacturers Association had submitted a pre-budget memorandum to the Government requesting for a reduction in the rate of excise duty on truck and bus tyres. The rates of excise duties are fixed on a particular commodity in the national interest.

Use of Namrup Gas

1259. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "Assam not availing of Namrup plants benefits" published in the *Hindustan Times* of December 24, 1987;

(b) if so, how much of the gas available in the Namrup oil fields is being utilised by Namrup Fertiliser Plant and otherwise, and how much of the gas still continues to be flared by ONGC; and

(c) what steps are being taken for the optimum utilisation of the gas potential?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gas is being supplied to HFCL Namrup and other consumers from ONGC's and OIL's fields in Assam. In Assam, ONGC and OIL have committed gas as follows:

	Quantity (MMCMD)
ONGC Consumer	
HFCL, Namrup	0 45
ASEB	0.465
Tea Estates	0.02
OIL	
HFCL	1.76
ASEB	0.80
Kathalguri Power Plant	1.00
Others	0.07

(c) The main reason for flaring of gas is non-offtake of committed quantity of gas by consumers. They have been advised to utilise the committed quanity. Additional gas has also been committed to ASEB, Nagaland Pulp and Paper Corporation, Tuli and power plant at Kathalguri. As these consumers came up, flaring of gas is expected to come down. OIL has also proposed to instal additional compression facilities, which help in utilising low pressure gas.